MONTEREY NEWS

April 2000
VOLUME XXX · Number 4

The Town

Special Town Meeting: A special town meeting was held in the Monterey Firehouse on Friday, March 24. The town voted to replace the culvert under Route 23 near Avalon School; to institute fines for those who do not display house numbers on their residences; and to adopt sign bylaws which legislate the size, placement, and permit requirements of commercial and private signs.

After lengthy and lively discussion, the town also adopted a set of dog bylaws which include vaccination requirements, licensing requirements, and behavioral requirements for dogs and those who own them. Under these bylaws dog owners are required to keep their dogs under control at all times or be subject to fines; owners are also subject to fines if their dogs are determined to be a nuisance because of biting, excessive barking, or defecating on private property other than that of the owner or on a public way or public lands without the owner cleaning up. Dog bylaws were previously under the jurisdiction of the county, but with the dissolution of county government, towns are now required to institute their own dog laws. Thank you to all who came and participated in this town meeting. For more information on specific laws that were passed, please contact the Town Hall.

Speeding through Town: As a result of citizen complaints and the danger that speeding poses, the Select Board

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Sunset from Monument Mountain

has asked the Police Department to increase their attention to enforcing the speed limit in Monterey. The recently awarded community policing grant will be used to help fund this increase. Police Chief Gareth Backhaus urges the citizens of Monterey to give voluntary compliance to the speed limit laws to help with this problem.

Grey Citizens' Council Luncheon: The Monterey Grey Citizens' Council will hold a social and informational luncheon on Wednesday, April 12, at noon in the basement of the Town Hall. The luncheon will provide a place for the Council to share information as well as receive any suggestions or assistance that anyone wishes to provide. Come and help get Monterey's Grey Citizens' Council off to a running start! If you need transportation, please call Bonnie at the Town Hall, at 528-1443. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to the Town Hall at the same number so that there will be enough lunch for everyone.

Detour on Route 23: In accordance with the town meeting decision to replace the culvert near Avalon School, Route 23 will be shut down at that site for the first two weeks of April. Those traveling east on Route 23 will be redirected down Corashire Road, across Route 57, and up River Road. Those traveling west on 23 into Great Barrington will need to drive down River Road and west on Route 57. There will be detour signs posted during that time. Thank you for your patience.

Transfer Station Goes to Bid: The planned upgrade for the Monterey Transfer Station has progressed this month, and has now gone to bid. Bids are due back by April 10. The upgrades are intended to provide more space and to make the station easier to use for both the citizens who use it and the haulers who clean it out. A temporary transfer station for use during the upgrade has yet to be established.

Town Surveys Being Compiled: The recent town surveys have been put into the computer, and results are now being compiled. The results of this survey will help the town leaders know what programs and opportunities Monterey citizens want, as well as how they view the town. Look for those results soon.

Annual Town Meeting: Plan ahead to attend the annual Monterey Town Meeting on May 6, 2000. Issues to be addressed are in the process of being compiled, and a warrant for the meeting will be available at a later date. In addition, an informational meeting is planned for April 28 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to address some of the questions and discussion points related to the Town Meeting. Please come to these meetings with your ideas and input on how Monterey should be governed.

Planning Ahead for New Emergency Vehicles: The Select Board and the Finance Committee have approved a proposal by the Monterey Fire Department to begin a planned schedule of replacing its vehicles on a ten-year basis. Presently, the Fire Department hopes to buy a new medical truck this year and a new fire engine in two years. The fire engine needs repairs in the plumbing, but an overhaul would be too expensive to be cost-effective. Instead, the Fire Department will perform some short-term repairs so that the truck can be kept in operation for the next two years.

The Select Board is appreciative of this effort to work with the Finance Committee to make money flows more predictable and to keep a more even level of funding. This issue will be included on the warrant for the annual Town Meeting on May 6, 2000.

— Melissa Hochstetler

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Town Election Slate Set

Twelve town officers will be elected in the May 6 election to fill various positions in town government. Six of the seats are uncontested and six are contested.

The candidates for the uncontested seats are as follows (in each case the candidate is the incumbent and is endorsed by both the Democratic and Republican Caucuses):

Board of Appeals (5 years):
Cynthia Weber

Board of Assessors (3 years):
Gary Shaw

Cemetery Committee (3 years):
Linda Thorpe

Moderator (1 year):
Mark Makuc

Park Commission (3 years):
Ron McMahon

Select Board (3 years):
Muriel Lazzarini

The contested seats are listed below, along with background information submitted by or on behalf of the candidates.

Finance Committee (3 years)

Richard Haapanen (Republican nominee):

Richard Haapanen has never held public office before but is motivated to try, as he states, "because of the disgraceful behavior of President Clinton in recent months. I realized I really did not have a whole lot I could say by the fact that I myself have not been active in government other than voting." Mr. Haapanen went on to say, "It's time to get involved!"

He was born and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts, and attended local schools there. Shortly after graduating from the former Berkshire Christian College in Lenox he married Linda Briggs from Monterey, settling in town in 1979. The Haapanens have five children ranging in ages from eight to nineteen.

Mr. Haapanen has been involved at New England Keswick, in some capacity, for the past twenty years while serving as principal at two different Christian schools. As principal he went on to earn his MA from Grace Theological Seminary in 1987. At the beginning of 1999 he became the full-time Executive Director of New England Keswick. He feels that his involvement in the schools and camp have given him the experience necessary to serve the town on the Finance Committee.

Dan Moriarty (incumbent, Democratic nominee):

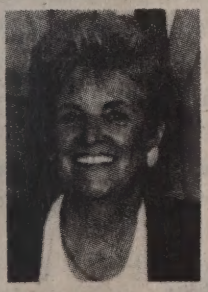
I am writing this letter requesting your support in my bid for reelection to the town Finance Committee. If elected, this will be my fourth term. During my previous years as a Finance Committee member, I am proud of my many accomplishments. They include working closely with the Select Board on projects such as revamping the Town Hall computer system and initiating the start of a town database.

I also initiated the first town quarterly information meetings and worked hard to establish the first uniform compensation plan for all town employees. In addition, I have worked with members of the Finance Committee and Select Board to create the first five-year budget which will anticipate major capital expenses and help stabilize our tax base.

I am in the advertising field and have been a summer resident since 1984 and a permanent resident since 1991.

I am married thirty-two years to my wife Marcy and have raised three boys whom many of you know. I currently travel frequently; however I have made it my goal to be present at all important finance meetings and have contributed with many common-sense recommendations and creative ideas.

I am asking for your vote so I may continue to participate on your behalf.



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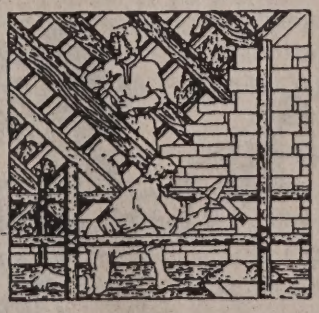

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Library Trustees (3 years; two seats open)

Kathleen T. Bracken (Democratic nominee):

Credentials:

•B.A. English, Eastern Connecticut Universtiy;
•Master of Education, Elementary, Westfield State College;
•Library Media Graduate Courses, SUNY at Albany and Bridgewater State.

Professional:

•Library Media Specialist, Pittsfield Public Schools Senior Assistant Children's Librarian;
•Homework Center Coach and grant contributor, Lenox Library;
•Storyteller;
•Volunteer, Children's Summer Reading Program, New Marlborough Library.
•Storytime Program Provider, Otis and Sandisfield Libraries, funded by a grant through the Children's Health Program;
•School Library Volunteer, Hammer School Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Philosophy:

Lifelong learning is essential to quality of life, and childhood exposure to meaningful literature is the foundation of lifelong learning.

Motivation:

My experience with children's literature, library management and computer applications for research and study prepare me to make a worthwhile contribution in Monterey. Having moved here seven years ago, it seems that my close affiliation with other local libraries has delayed the involvement I can offer in Monterey. I welcome the opportunity to contribute and appreciate the encouragement of townspeople who approached me to serve.

Susan Bronson (Republican nominee):

I moved to Monterey four years ago from New York City, but my connection to the town goes back to the early 1980s when I lived and worked at Gould Farm. Many town residents may remember me from the days when I ran the Roadside Store. I am married to John Sellew and am the mother of ten-month-old twin girls.

Currently I am Director of Planning and Development for The Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield. I serve on the Board of Directors of Gould Farm and am Chair of the Development Committee. I hold a Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan and previously worked in New York as Director of the Program on Eurasia and Eastern Europe for the Social Science Research Council.

I use the Monterey Library regularly and see the Library as a critical resource for the town. I hope to do all I can to support the Library and would be proud to serve as a Trustee.

Donna Trumbull (incumbent, Democratic and Republican nominee):

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Donna Trumbull has a Masters degree in Social Work and over twenty years' experience in social work. For the past ten years she has served on the clinical team at Gould Farm. She also does volunteer work with Hospice Care.

Donna loves reading, music, and movies. She has served as a Library Trustee for the last four years and is committed to a library that actively serves the needs of the community. She has organized the winter film series at the Monterey Library.

Planning Board (3 years)

Stefan Grotz (Republican nominee):

Stefan Grotz (Independent) should need no introduction to the voters of Monterey. A long-time resident and respected citizen, he brings both experience and insight to his candidacy, having previously served the town for twelve years as a Selectman, with a well-deserved reputation for integrity, impartiality, common sense, and commitment to the community at large.

On May 6, at the Monterey Annual Meeting, we have an opportunity to elect an extraordinarily well-qualified individual.

The Republican Party believes that Stefan Grotz as a member of the Monterey Planning Board will protect and promote the interests of the town, by objectively seeing to it that good bylaws are in place, and that they are followed fairly and properly. We support Stefan and thank him for his willingness again to serve his fellow townspeople.

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Gerry Shapiro (incumbent, Democratic nominee):

I have served on the Monterey Planning Board for five years, as the chair during the past year. During this time I have attended seminars sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Affairs, The Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Southern Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. I have graduate and undergraduate degrees in Architecture and Planning and have also been a licensed contractor. Having lived in the Berkshires for twenty years, the last eleven of those in Monterey, I've seen many changes. I'm very aware of the need for housing and the likelihood of growth. I believe growth can be achieved while protecting our natural environment, keeping our lakes unpolluted and the Monterey community intact. The Planning Board has an important role in fairly implementing the existing zoning bylaws, but must also continually review them to keep abreast of the Town's needs.

Town Clerk (3 years)

Deborah Mielke (Republican nominee):

I am running for the office of Town Clerk. Through this letter I would like to introduce myself to anyone who does not know me and answer several questions that have been asked of me.

I have been a resident of Monterey for twenty-four years. I grew up in New Marlborough, attended local schools and graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in elementary education. For the past twenty years I have worked as a real estate broker in family-owned Corashire Realty, Inc. I have been married to Rick Mielke for twenty-four years. I am the mother of Claire, a freshman at Mt. Everett and Dinah, a fifth-grader at Undermountain Elementary.

I have previously served on the Park Commission, have been a Trustee of the Monterey Library, and am currently a member of the Conservation Commission. I volunteered to write a column on our local schools for the *Monterey News*. This April I will be taking over the Personal Notes column for the *Monterey News*. Professionally, I am president-elect of the South County Council of the Berkshire County Board of Realtors.

I have been asked why I want to run for this office. I would like to become Town Clerk because I enjoy the role of facilitator. I see the Town Clerk's job as that of helping to bring our diverse population together as a community. By administering to the mundane aspects that provide a common bond, whether it be writing out dog licenses or overseeing elections, this goal is achieved. I will bring my twenty years of experience in problem solving, attending to details, and consumer relations to the office. I am confident I can do the job and be a positive representative of the town.

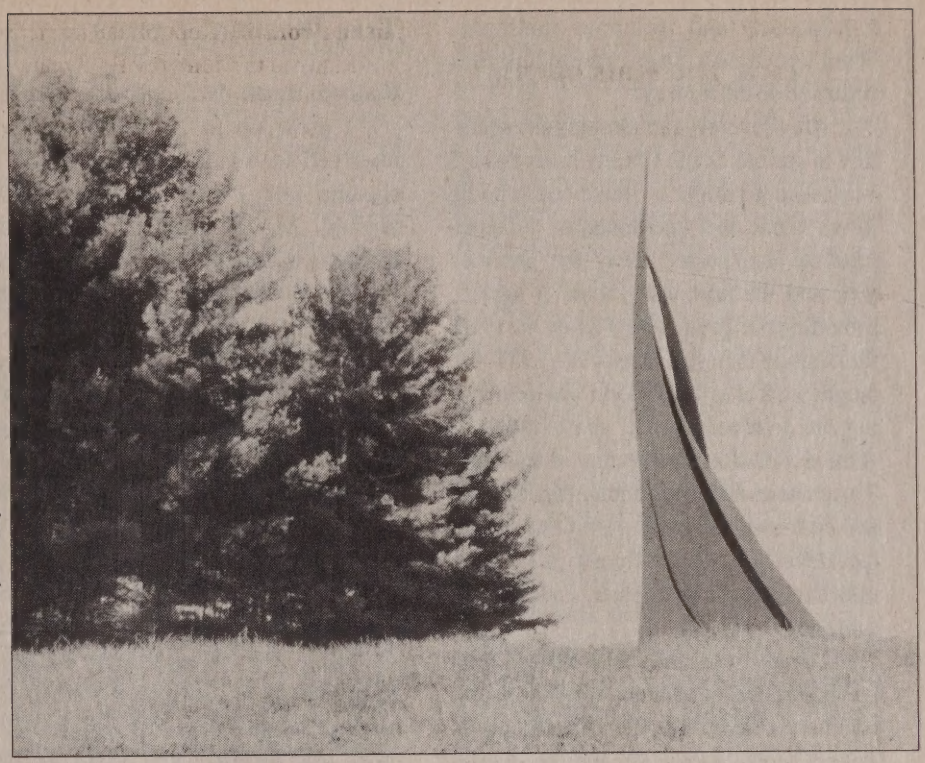
I have been asked if I would hold more office hours. Yes, I intend to have more office hours, both at Town Hall and at my home office.

I have been asked about the storage of records. I have access to ample storage space. I can assure you that the records will be safe, dry and accessible.

I hope you will consider me for the office of Town Clerk. Thank you.

Barbara B. Swann (incumbent, Democratic nominee):

A third-generation homeowner in Monterey, I have lived here full-time for as many years as I lived overseas while a young adult. With six years overseas prior to college, I early in my adulthood became interested in comparative politics and local government on the village level. Although Japan and Melanesia were the focus of my advanced graduate training and early college teaching, comparative politics and local village government in the United States were always a fascination of mine. Perhaps because I had already taught concerning the political anthropology of non-American village governments, the chance to teach several courses in American government to lower classmen and women came as



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Paul Perces' Sunset Sails *on Brewer Pond dam*

MONTEREY
A LOCAL HISTORY

Edited by Peter Murkett, Ian Jenkins, & Kim Hines

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a refreshing and welcome challenge. Then I became a single parent and thus returned to Monterey.

After several years temping as a secretary in various South County businesses, I was asked if I might be interested in being Town Clerk here in Monterey. Suzanne MacIver had passed away the previous year and the post was vacant. I agreed, providing the Town would allow me to try the position for a year. That year, 1987–88, taught me that a) the position was demanding and protocol specific, and b) the tasks were as varied and interesting as teaching. There was an added advantage to satisfying my curiousity about government on the local level here. That curiousity is far more informed twelve years later, and still not satisfied.

During my second year as Town Clerk, I realized I needed to attend workshops and seminars offered by the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association and the state as well as the New England Association of Town Clerks (for federal level protocols). I needed to know how to avoid mistakes at the state and federal election levels, and to learn the protocols for birth, marriage and death certification, the registration of businesses and business mortgages, the protocols for bylaw approval, the role of the Clerk in zoning procedures, and how to answer genealogy requests appropriately, as well as other varied public records requests. It was not just that I believed I needed to take this coursework, but that I believed it was an obligation to those who had elected me that I become a Certified Town Clerk.

Thus far, I am certified through the New England Association (Certified Municipal Clerk credential) and have succeeded in passing the joint Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Massachusetts Town Clerk Association's written examination (the Certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk credential).

In addition, I recently served on a committee for the State Association, am currently President of the Berkshire County Clerks' Association, and have been asked to be a Mentor for new Town Clerks.

Should the voters of Monterey return me to office, I will continue to serve as long as I am able and needed.

Tree Warden (1 year)

Kenneth Heath, Jr. (Republican nominee):

I grew up in Monterey and was involved in many town activities, including 4-H. I attended local schools through Mount Everett. I graduated from the Massachusetts Fire Academy. I then spent three years in the Marines and was honorably discharged.

Since then I have spent twelve years working for various tree and power companies throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Maine. This work included not only regular trimming and maintenance of trees near the power lines, but, just as importantly, responding to many types of emergency situations brought about by the weather.

If elected I would begin by doing an inventory of all town trees, road by road, and then categorize and prioritize those that are diseased, dead, or hazardous. This would help greatly in investigating sources of funding. I would not rely on the town budget but apply for State grants and possibly other sources in order to supplement what the town appropriates. I would work closely with the Highway Department and with other town boards and authorities in order to ensure that Monterey retains its beautifully shaded roads while at the same time making them safe from the hazards of fallen limbs and trees.

Thank you for reading this and please vote for me at election time.

Roger Tryon (Democratic nominee)

I have been your Tree Warden for twenty years, since 1980. My job is to care for the town trees that border our highways. This involves pruning dead wood from them, and removing them if they are dead or dangerous. I also work with Massachusetts Electric when they prune or take down trees that grow into their wires or pose a threat of falling onto the power lines. My work also includes the planting of new trees for shade or for the beautification of our roadsides. I worked through two tornados in town and assisted in replanting some of the trees that were lost. I also installed plantings at the Lake Garfield town beach, along Barnum Flats, in the center of the village, and on many of our side roads.

I am a lifelong resident of Monterey and a 1974 graduate of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. After completing college I worked with my parents here in Monterey at Lowland Farm. In 1986 I started a landscape and tree care business. I own much of the equipment necessary for my job as Tree Warden, so it is readily available during emergencies and for normal maintenance work. I enjoy caring for the trees and being your Tree Warden, and I am committed to serving Monterey residents in this capacity in the future.

◆

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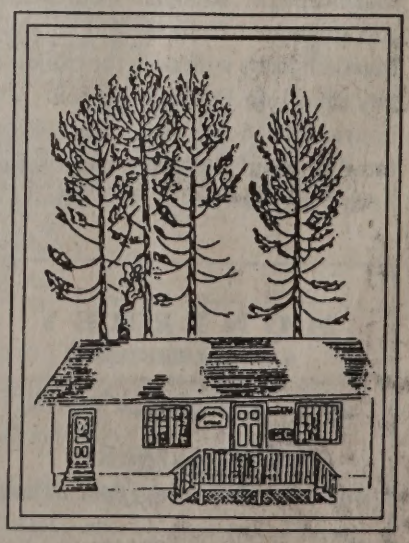

Lake Garfield Association

It is time to look ahead to warm days and to inform you of recent events relating to the lake.

As usual, the three membership meetings will be held on Saturday mornings on June 24, July 22, and August 26 at the Firehouse. Time: 9–11 a.m. We decided to start at 9 a.m. instead of the usual 10 a.m. so everyone can have more time on those precious Saturdays.

It seems safe to say that the drawdown has been effective this year. The lake has been solidly frozen, and, for much of the time, with no snow cover. The Board and Lake Management team leaders will be preparing a draft Mission Statement for the Association based on the values articulated at the July meeting last summer. At the June 26 meeting, you will be asked to modify and approve it. For those of you who were not present, the following Lake Management teams were formed:

Science and Ecology: vegetation, wildlife, lake biology. Team leader: Pat Edelstein.

Aesthetics: to maintain the beauty and serenity of the lake. Team leader: Nanette Hucknall.

Finance: to ensure that the LGA has a strong financial base for lake management and any other projects or activities. Team co-leaders: Len and Marion Simon.

Governance: to provide a liaison with the town government. Team leader: Harriet Harvey.

Safety: to keep the lake accident free. Team leader: Bruce Kamenstein.

Town Beach: to represent users of public beach. Team leader: Arthur Monk.

The only team that remains to be formed is the Recreation team which has to do with boating, swimming, and any recreational activities or events on the lake. If you wish to become part of such a team, particularly if you feel that your interests are not being represented, come to the first general meeting on June 26.

If anyone is interested in joining any of the above teams, you may contact me at (413) 528-9636 or drop me a note at the address given below. There will also be an opportunity to join at the June meeting.

At the July meeting last summer, there was talk about the LGA becoming involved in more organized fund raising. In December, Marion Simon of the Finance Team, Dean Amidon, Fran Amidon, Muriel Lazzarini, Nanette Hucknall, Joan MacVicar, and I met with Carter White of the Berkshire Taconic Foundation to explore the possibility of developing a relationship with that organization. The BTF's mission is to assist community organizations, and it is particularly interested in funding lake and pond projects. In the event that the LGA wishes to undertake additional fund raising for any future projects, the Foundation would provide technical support such as sending acknowledgements to donors, maintaining a data base, and helping with structuring campaigns. Finally, the Foundation provides an umbrella which would give us 501(c)3 status so that any contributions to the Association would be tax-deductible. Of course, we will discuss this whole situation in June.

We have drafted an Article to be placed on the Warrant to be voted on at the Town Meeting on Saturday, May 6. In the Article we are asking the town to "raise and appropriate the sum of $750.00 as equally matching funds with the Lake Garfield Association for the purpose of paying for an aquatic growth survey to provide a scientific basis to guide future actions."

Remember to renew your family membership of $20 annually. Both your dues and any additional contribution to be used for lake management will be welcomed. Send checks to Lake Garfield Association, PO Box 176, Monterey.

We want to stress how important it is for everyone to be actively involved in the association. Please join us whether you live on or near the lake, swim in it, boat on it, fish, or just enjoy its beauty. A strong association means a beautiful, well-maintained lake that benefits the whole community.

— Judy Bach, President

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***

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

Household Hazardous Waste

The Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District has received a grant for $13,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to develop a regional program to collect and dispose of household hazardous waste. The application was supported by eight towns including Becket, Washington, Monterey, Otis, Lenox, Alford, Lee, Sheffield, and Great Barrington. The District has hired the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) to conduct this work. CET is coordinating its work with staff and representatives from each town order to develop an organizational and fee structure that addresses their questions and concerns. CET is also working with Maxymillian Technologies of Pittsfield to incorporate mobile collection in the smaller rural communities.

"We need to make disposal of hazardous waste as easy and convenient as possible in order to keep toxic products out of landfills and incinerators" said Bob Peyton, Otis Selectman. One-day collections have helped collect many products that are in basements and garages. However, this approach does not provide the best service to people in small towns and does not offer opportunities on a year-round basis—when people move or for owners of second homes that cannot attend a collection event."

In Vermont and other rural areas, a collection truck—akin to the old time bookmobile—comes periodically to the smaller towns. In this way, more households bring their hazardous waste to be disposed of safely. The products and materials are then brought back and stored at a local facility. Once or twice a year, as needed, any full drums and containers are disposed of properly. By consolidating the small amounts collected in the one-day events, the towns save money on disposal costs.

The City of Lexington, Massachusetts, with seven neighboring cities and towns has established a permanent facility that provides monthly collections. However, residents must visit the facility; local collection events are not held.

"Residents are enthusiastic and local public officials are responsive," said Laura Dubester, CET Director. "Local officials want to have a clear understanding of costs and benefits. They need to manage their towns' budgets while protecting the public health and safety and the environment. Storing flammable and other toxic products in basements, garages and attics can cause or exacerbate a fire and if present are dangerous for fire fighters. Improper disposal harms our lakes, rivers, streams, water supplies, and air. Hazardous products, thrown away in the trash, are potentially dangerous to workers that collect or handle them."

"People call us all the time to find out how and where they can bring hazardous materials," said John Anthony, Vice-President of MaxymillianTechnologies. "We know that a program is needed, and Maxymillian would like to help. On a daily basis we help remediate the results of pollution and know that prevention is the best and least expensive long-term solution to this problem," he continued.

CET is working with the Town of Lee to evaluate the old landfill site for this regional program. The paint shed and used oil tank are located there, and the Town has hopes to have a recycling center there in the future. DEP would pay all the costs for site preparation and storage structure. Maxymillian Technologies will provide the vehicle and driver for the mobile collection events in the small towns. DEP will also pay the costs to develop an educational program, conduct outreach, and coordinate the program for the first year. Towns would still need to pay their share to dispose of waste. After the first year, the towns would be responsible for covering the program operating costs as well.

CET staff will be meeting with members of various town boards to explain the program and address individual questions and concerns. The program is open to all south Berkshire communities. Interested individuals or towns should contact Laura Dubester at CET.

The Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District is a consortium of six towns that work together to cost-effectively serve their communities on waste issues. CET is a non-profit organization active in the fields of energy and resource conservation, waste management, and sustainable communities. CET is funded, in part, by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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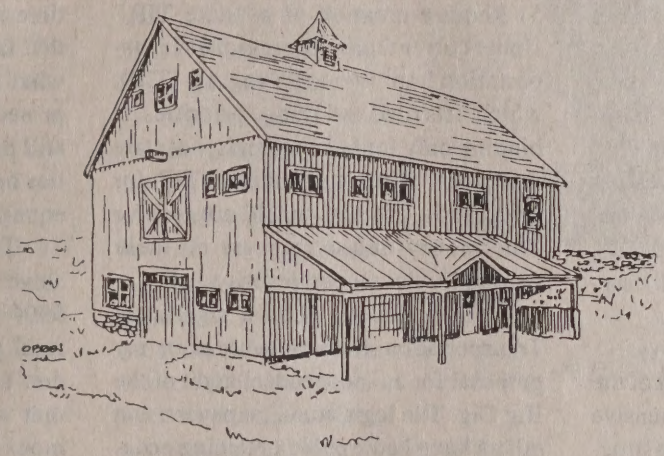
Gould Farm Barn Raising

Late in July, Gould Farm will be joined by volunteers from the Timber Framers Guild and the Massachusetts Portable Saw Mill Owners Association to raise a 4000 square-foot barn. The weekend event will be built around "I Love Monterey Days," and will include folk music and barbeque picnics up near the pasture where the barn will appear. It will be a kind of sheep-to-shawl effort: logs cut from the Berkshire woods, sawyers milling the timbers before the framers tap and raise them.

The new barn will significantly improve Gould Farm's Harvest & Trades Center, our work-training facilities for adults with psychiatric illnesses. It will house a food-processing operation: a licensed commercial kitchen, a root cellar, a classroom, and a marketing office for Gould Farm Products. A rejuvenated greenhouse, auto repair and woodworking shop will follow, creating more practical spaces in which to learn.

The barn will also increase Gould Farm's effectiveness as a community trying to feed itself. Our present makeshift work spaces often fall short of our capacity to grow vegetables and herbs in healthy quantities.

Lori, a former member of the garden team, tells the story best: "I had never worked with the earth before. It's organic. It's good therapy, getting down in the dirt, seeing things grow. There was a great deal of pride in the work we accomplished in the garden last summer. But being able to use all the vegetables would be a lot more rewarding. Sometimes things just go to waste because we don't have the right places to store stuff. It can get discouraging, especially when you think about how much more self-sufficient we could be."



By preserving and storing our produce and dairy products more effectively, we will better use our natural resources, adding value, making more of a good thing.

This barn is all about collaboration from the ground up. Over 20,000 board feet of hemlock for timbers is being generously donated by Dicken Crane of Holiday Farm. And the logs are being trucked from Dalton to the Farm by Carlotto Trucking, also as a donation to this exciting project.

The Timber Framers Guild is an international organization representing more than 1400 timber-frame enthusiasts throughout the world. Joel McCarty of the Guild will spearhead the mechanics of the project, signing up volunteers with brains and brawn to solve this rough-sawn jigsaw puzzle. In his fun-loving way, Joel notes that the Guild chose to work with Gould Farm "because we like you guys." He said he recognizes the similarities in our missions, two groups committed to working collaboratively through community service. "Our groups sort of inadvertently resonate," he notes. "We don't have any hidden agendas. We're not out to make money. We rarely wear black." Our barn will be one of a dozen community service projects the Guild will complete, around the world. Their service work in Scotland was recently featured in back-to-back episodes of NOVA and in Smithsonian magazine. Coincidentally, they recently opened their new headquarters in Becket, right next door.

The Massachusetts Portable Saw Mill Owners Association is a newly formed group led by a dynamic couple, Jim and Carla Clarke, of Ashfield, Massachusetts. When Jim came to Gould Farm several months ago to attend a workshop, he heard about the barn raising and signed up on the spot. Jim said he hopes to promote the good work of portable sawmill owners throughout the state by way of community service projects. Jim and his colleagues emphasize ecological practices, and promote sustainable use of woodlands. Both groups are committed to public education through hands-on experiences and plain ol' fun.

There will be many opportunities for Monterey residents to participate as we look forward (with nervous excitement) to hosting several hundred visitors during the last weekend of July. Please call Carly or Amy if you would like more information: 413-528-1804. It's gonna be a good time.

— Kim Hines

◆

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in the Meeting House

Keith Snow, Pastor

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Senator Says

Transportation Reform: Earlier this month, I released a five-point proposal for restructuring the transportation funding process in Massachusetts. My transportation reform plan would shift the balance of power away from the state transportation agencies and put more control in the hands of local and regional officials.

Transportation funding has been a problem in Massachusetts for some time. The recent news that the price for Boston's Big Dig had risen to $12.2 billion was only the latest blow. Annual funds for the statewide road and bridge program were drastically reduced by the administration days after the Big Dig cost overrun was announced. My plan takes the position that there can be no funding solution for the Big Dig without a funding solution for all transportation projects in Massachusetts.

The five points are as follows:

1) Complete the independent audit of the Big Dig and a parallel comprehensive assessment of all of the state's infrastructure and highway needs. This will allow us to establish a baseline figure for transportation funding needs statewide.

2) Establish a reliable funding stream for road and bridge maintenance and upgrades. There should be a reliable formula for regional projects as well as Chapter 90 money for local roads. I would be willing to consider dedicating a portion of the gas tax for this purpose.

3) Give the majority of votes for regional transportation decisions to local and regional officials. Federal transportation laws require each state to have regional policy groups to prioritize road, bridge, and related infrastructure projects. Currently, Massachusetts is the only state where state agencies hold veto power over regional transportation decision-making. This system should be changed to give local and regional officials a majority of votes on our regional transportation plans and other transportation policy and spending decisions for each region.

4) Establish a computerized tracking system for road and bridge projects and their funding. This system would make the process accountable, allowing legislators, local officials, and citizens access to information on project progress and delays. The tracking system would help address any problems.

5) Require creation of a "state TIP." Under current rules, the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which lists road and bridge priorities, is binding only for federal funds, not state resources. With a mandated TIP for state funds, projects would not receive state money unless they are on these regionally developed priority lists.

I have already seen a significant Transportation Reform success in my proposal for an independent audit of the Big Dig. The legislature, taxpayers, and others have had trouble obtaining accurate estimates of cost overruns from Big Dig officials. Therefore, I have proposed that an independent audit be conducted to determine the exact amount of the overrun, how it occurred, and what needs to be done to address it. My proposal for an independent audit was first adopted by the state Senate as part of the recent Transportation Bond Bill, and was subsequently embraced by the Governor.

The five-point plan for Transportation Reform provides straightforward steps to insure that all areas of the Commonwealth get the funding they need and deserve, and that one state agency does not hold the kind of vast power that lets mismanagement, such as we have seen on the Big Dig, go unchecked.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

Rep Rap

As issues heat up on Beacon Hill, the funding for the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel Project, commonly known as the "Big Dig," has captured the public's attention across the state. It was recently announced that project has a $1.4 billion overrun, increasing the cost of the project to $12.2 million. Despite earlier announcements from the administration that the Big Dig was "on time and on budget," we can see now that is hardly the case. The question is what do we do to finish this project, protect the state's fiscal soundness, and still provide adequate aid to communities outside of metropolitan Boston for equally important infrastructure needs?

The Governor's bright idea to resolve this problem is to borrow up to $900 million to pay for funding the final phases of the project. Now you don't have to have a Ph.D. to realize that when you are sitting on an enormous surplus that Massachusetts is fortunate to have you don't take out new credit cards and charge them to the hilt. This proposal would burden taxpayers until the year 2050 and threaten our future credit rating. Yet while the Governor is touting this plan he still insists on giving people a tax cut that amounts to $50 per person per year. Do you

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know how much revenue that the state stands to lose from the tax cut? That tax cut is worth $1 billion.

We can't afford to lose this revenue when road projects outside of Boston are being put in jeopardy to pay for the Big Dig's poor management. It was announced last month that all county planning associations in Massachusetts would receive severe cuts in order to combat the Big Dig's problem. What this means for Berkshire County is that its road funding will decrease from a projected $11 million to $983,000 in the year 2000. We need to keep road projects in the Berkshires fully funded. Our citizens deserve to drive on safe and modern roads and bridges, particularly as our highways system ages. A sound infrastructure system is also the key to attracting business to the area and maintaining a strong economy.

This battle isn't over yet. Please know that I will remain vigilant on this issue to insure that the Berkshires receive their fair share.

As always please feel free to contact my full-time district office with any questions or concerns at 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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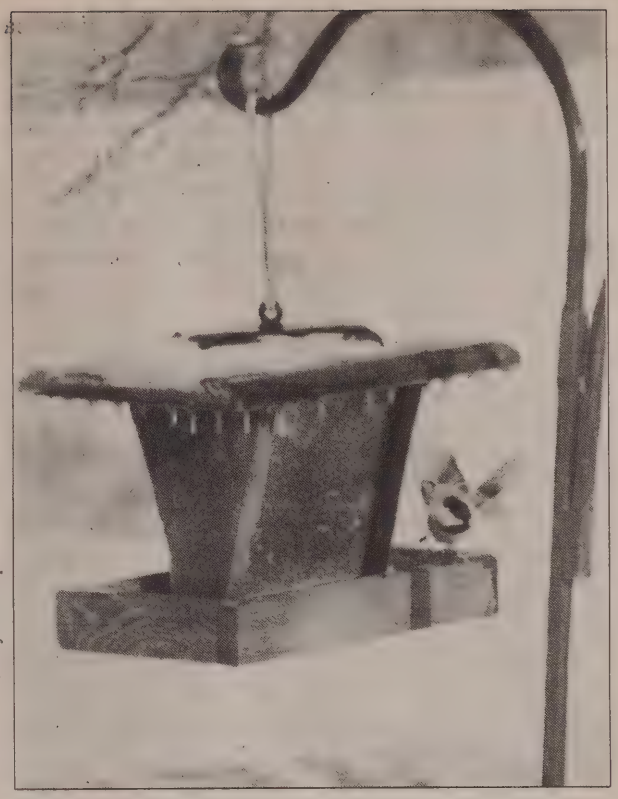

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The Department of Environmental Protection's Municipal Recycling Incentive Program (MRIP) awarded the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District (SBSWMD) towns a total of $1,436 for recycling 299 tons of material over a six-month period.

MRIP rewards cities and towns that take steps to improve their recycling programs by paying them for each ton of material that is recycled by their residents. Over the past two and a half years, more than $5 million have been paid to Massachusetts communities through MRIP. MRIP is funded by the state's Clean Environment Fund, which is comprised of unclaimed beverage container deposits.

The following SBSWMD towns received payments: Alford, $320; Egremont, $612; Monterey, $332; Mount Washington, $76; Washington, $96.

"I am pleased with Washington's recycling success," said Bill Cawley, the Town of Washington's Solid Waste Commissioner. "Ninety-six dollars may not seem like a lot of money. However, our residents' recycling efforts have helped the town avoid thousands of dollars of disposal fees. This occurs in the other district towns as well. I encourage people to reduce their waste and keep recycling."

The program payments will be even larger as residents recycle more. The towns receive a base payment of $4 a ton. But for every additional ton that is recycled compared with last year, the towns are paid at a bonus of $20 per ton.

"The next time you recycle, remember that you will be helping earn money to support your community's recycling program," said Jamie Cahillane, Waste Management Specialist from the Center for Ecological Technology.

Each year, recycling in Massachusetts reduces greenhouse gas emissions by nearly one million tons of carbon equivalent, saves enough energy to power 140,000 homes, and supports 12,000 jobs and $600 million of economic development.

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Houston's Fold

Feel like I live in Houston's folds
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then suddenly expelled
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a victim of anatomy's complaints
the throne of thought's
become my universe
I leave a paper trail
a crushed wad of desire
flushed with chance
reeking with words

— Peter Shepley

The Young Widow

The young widow watched him
turning the earth over in the kitchen garden
the shovel flying
and all those lace rootlets
tender and ripped
the stiff packed grey soil of everyday
breaking
into rich brown expectant loam

This is the sharp way love had come upon her
she remembered, feeling suddenly again
broken, friable, succumbing
already exposed and hungry now
for seed.

Clouds interrupted the slanting sun
she turned, folding her arms bitterly
against her breasts
went into the house
after all,
he was only the hired man.

— A. O. Howell

Haiku

A homeless old man
shivering on a park bench—
No leaves on the trees.

*

Artist on roadside
painting flowers on canvas—
Bees stick to roses.

*

Approaching Seasons
Appearing briefly in thought;
Timelessness remains.

*

Through broken bottles
Arise strokes of green and gold—
The roadside lilies.

*

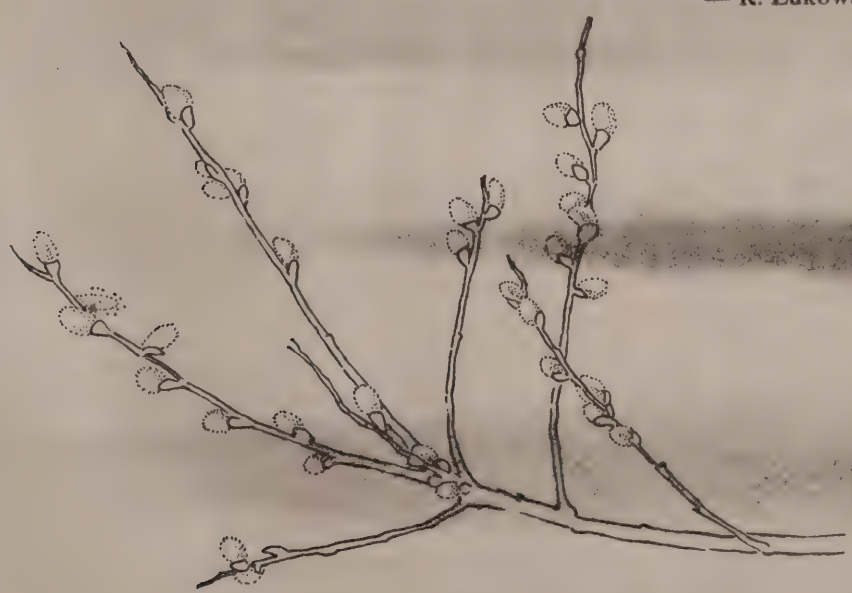
— Ann M. La Vallee

I Held You (What Else?)

I held you
while the wood crackled
in the frigid sun
I held you
frozen lapis night
beneath the sliced mood
I held you
when nothing else mattered
but the wind within
I held you
even in the pitch night
flickering in the coals
I held you
while the weaving told
of the tribes undoing
I held you
in the fallen oak
saving future flames
I held you
the bread rising a-
gainst the mindless wall
I held you
dappled in shadow
blue worlds of sorrow

I held you
not in any way ...
just ... like a tea bowl
I held you
back against the birch
blowing prayers to heal
I held you
even as the bass played
sad ... melodious ...
I held you
while night settled on
days wants and great waste
I held you
while the wind whipped the snow
and—all—we—were—shreds
I held you
looking back through the fire
the vows and the void
I held you
even as we made love
beneath the storms
I held you
eclipsed ... submerged in clouds
your light relentless

— R. Zukowski



The Beginning of the *Monterey News*

As part of the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the ***Monterey News****, the editor asked Virgil Brallier, who was Pastor of the Monterey United Church of Christ and instrumental in the founding of the* ***News****, to reminisce about the early days.*

Before the first issue of the *Monterey News* ever landed in the post office, there was a series of discussions in the church council about the feasibility of such a publication and how it would be financed. As I remember it now, I think we talked about it for at least three months in a row. The result was that the church agreed to back the publication financially and to stand behind it in every way. I do not know if we even discussed the possibility that it would soon be standing on its own two feet. We were somewhat amazed at the community's wholehearted support of it and at the very short time it was dependent on the church for financial support. It was one of the "fastest growing-up kids I have ever seen."

The earliest format was three legal-sized sheets of paper printed on the mimeograph. This was adapted from the newsletter I began in the North Adams Congregational Church called *The Rose Window*. The great difference in the way the Monterey "kid" grew up is in how soon it was a newsletter serving the whole community.

Marie Siefert volunteered to be the first editor. If my memory is right, she served between one and two years, until her family moved from Monterey. The next editor was Patricia Howard. She come to Monterey as a guest at Gould Farm. When she left the Farm she moved to the center of Monterey. She continued as editor for quite a number of years. Finally, she moved to Great Barrington and gave up the editorship. Right now my mind is a little fuzzy as to the exact order of the editorships, so I will let that order be established as the story is unfolded by others.

In those early years of the *Monterey News*, I cut the stencils by typing the pages in the form they were to be printed. Then I hand-cranked them through the mimeograph. My family did quite a bit of the work on assembling the pages in order, stapling them together, folding them, addressing them, and anything it took to get them to the post office. Volunteers from the community helped on occasion. Some years before we left Monterey, the paper had developed into close to the present format, being professionally printed in magazine style.

Let me close by observing how very much many, many people in the community have contributed to the success of the *Monterey News*. Faithful editors, article writers, people reporting on special events, artists—the list goes on—have blessed and illuminated this publication over the past thirty years. It has been a great inspiration to witness the procession of dedicated people who have given freely of their time and talent to keep the *Monterey News* on track as a valuable source of information to Monterey. Who could guess or even imagine at the beginning how many would step forward to freely and generously pour themselves into such an amazing contribution to the whole community? It has been the work of many hands and hearts. I freely confess that a number of my dreams have not come to fulfillment, but the *Monterey News* has come to fulfillment beyond my wildest expectations. To the wonderful and amazing array of people who have given their time, talent, and dedication, let me say, thank you, thank you, thank you!

— Virgil V. Brallier

◆

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Moving On

It was five years ago this month that I accepted the Call to be the part-time Pastor of the Monterey United Church of Christ. I have been blessed by a congregation that has nurtured and encouraged my growth as a child of God. And for that I am immensely grateful. And I hope that I have been a source of such a blessing to the congregation.

Now it is time for a change. Effective April 30, I will be ending my job as Pastor. I don't think that this will come as a surprise to you, the Reader. I have been fairly forthright with my thoughts over the years. I am very much a pilgrim. As I live this brief earthly journey I am more and more aware of how much there is to know and experience. It is exciting to move beyond the secure boundaries of what family, church, and school have taught and to build one's own values based on personal experience and knowledge. I see it as essential if one is to grow; but it can be scary. Leaving the familiar (family) is that. I am at such a place now.

I have spent a good deal of my professional life as a local church minister in small town and rural churches. And that deliberate choice to serve small congregations has helped me to grow, free of a lot of the heavier and, for me, intrusive and restrictive demands and expectations of the institutional church that are so typical of large congregations. There have been fewer social "airs" to contend with. I have found the folks in the small country churches to be plain-spoken.

It is a wish to be "real" that motivates me to leave the local church ministry. Being "real," for me, has to do with honesty and integrity. Much of what I have often said on Sundays in worship has had to do with letting go of the institutional expectations and trappings of Christianity. Some of those have been okay. But most have been misleading and distracting. At this point in my life, I want to disengage from the traditional local church ministry. And I would like to make space for other forms of ministry. I think that the needs of the increasing numbers of the disenfranchised in our society tug at my heart and spirit. How I respond to that remains an unknown. But I don't think that I will ever know if I do not provide the space for that to ferment within my soul. So it is necessary to stop doing what I have been doing for so many years. Of course, something else could emerge to claim my commitment. The important action is to allow for that growth and opportunity.

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Michelle Horner and Maia Vlcek at Gould Farm Pond

So here I am. What I will be and what I will do are to be determined. The pilgrimage continues and I am grateful for opportunities and blessings. Thank you for your sharing and your encouragement over the past five years. God's blessing on you all.

— Keith Snow

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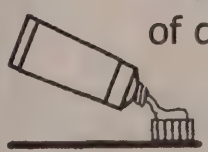

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Route 23 Monterey

Dark Days in the Sugarhouse

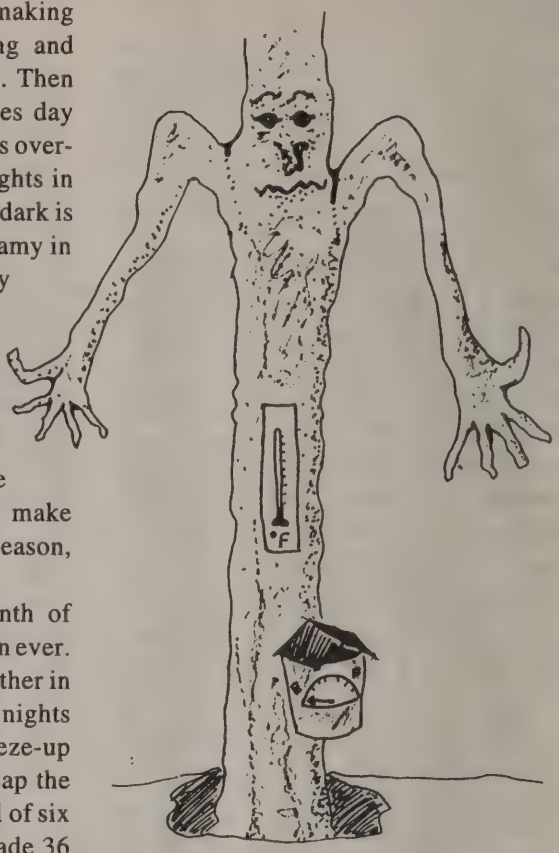
We have been making maple syrup for twenty-five years. You might think by now that it would be getting tiresome, too familiar, too much of the same old song. But any farmer or outdoors person will be quick to tell you that an enterprise which is dependent upon living things and the weather never goes the same way twice.

There are some general trends in the maple-sugaring business: we're looking for sugar. The trees are full of it, made up last summer by the green leaves and stored all this time, ready to feed the growth spurt of spring, the opening of buds, blossoms, and more leaves. Each year in mid-February this system starts to shiver and shake. Winter is breaking up. We get freezing nights and days of thaw, and the sap in the trees rises and falls with the temperature gradient, loosening up the stored sugar. By late March the buds are swelling. They have been sucking up the sugar and now they pop open, first with lovely pale green-yellow blossoms, and then with perfect, delicate little leaves. At this point, maple sugar-making is over for the year. The sap, if it is still running, has taken on a cloudy look and a "green" smell. We say it is "buddy" sap, and we shut down our sugarhouse. It's time to wash the buckets and plant peas.

Twenty five years ago we'd spend six weeks boiling sap. Some days the weather would stay cold, frozen up, and we'd get a day off—for making repairs, splitting wood, bottling and labelling the syrup made so far. Then we'd get another run, sometimes day and night, with buckets and tanks overflowing. We have no electric lights in our sugarhouse, so boiling after dark is not a good option. It gets too steamy in there to see what you are doing by flashlight or lantern. So we would get an early start, fire up, leave one person tending the evaporator while the other took off in the pickup to gather more sap. Working flat out we could keep up with things and make 150 gallons of syrup over the season, using 400 taps.

In the last decade the month of March has turned more fickle than ever. Some years we get good sap weather in late February, but by March the nights might be too warm. With no freeze-up at night, we don't get a run of sap the next day. One year we had a total of six days of boiling sap. We only made 36 gallons that year.

This year we got rolling in mid-February. Right away we knew that this year's quirkiness would be the color. Maple syrup is graded according to color. There are three colors that are all considered "grade A." They are grade A light amber (also known historically as Vermont Fancy), grade A medium amber, and grade A dark amber. None of these are all that dark, really. In our little 12-oz. flask bottles you can easily see through them all, Grade A light is so pale it has been likened to ginger ale, and customers who are used to Log Cabin, which is artificially colored, are suspicious of "Fancy" light syrup. We get questioned about it: Is this real? Is it watered down?



Sap won't run when it's cold.

Light syrup is made early in the season, from the freshest, sweetest sap. Some aficionados like it best, finding the flavor most mapley, least obscured by the bite that comes with darker syrup.

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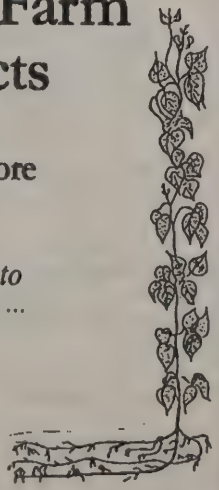

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Last year we made lots of light syrup, well into the season. This year we got none. It was "medium" right off the bat, and stayed that way a day or two before turning "dark" and then diving down into the "grade B" category, and finally right off the scale, where it is now.

Never before have we kept on boiling past grade B. The sap would always be about a day from buddiness and our pride would never let us pull off buddy syrup. But this year's grade Z syrup still tastes good. In a pretty little flask bottle it is nearly opaque. It looks like molasses, but it tastes like maple syrup, with a warmth that is like butter mixed in. Our sap is cloudy today, and we are running out of wood. This will be the last day to boil, and I'd say our total crop will finish out at about 80 gallons, just like last year. But the grading experience has been unique. We have no idea which variable caused this unusual color year. It could have been something last summer. Drought? Or maybe the mild fall? Maybe this is the beginning of a trend, or maybe it's an anomaly. Only the trees know for sure, and they ain't talkin'. We can only shake our heads and wonder what will happen next. It's never dull, never routine, never predictable—except for this: when the first phoebes start shrieking around the clothesline and the coltsfoots are up, bucket washing and pea planting are next.

— Bonner J. McAllester

About Astrology

Aries: A Star is Born (Just Ask Us)

Is it a coincidence, or a writer's dream of serendipity? The reference number for this article in my computer is 911, and impulsive, energetic Aries often volunteers to be on the spot when an emergency is at hand. Quick to respond and clear about what he believes needs to be done whenever his temper is not engaged, one born with the Sun in this sign has no trouble expressing an opinion. Perhaps it's only another coincidence that the *Monterey News,* whose birthday we celebrated last month, was Aries-born.

The natal, or birth, chart for the *News,* set up for noon on March 24, 1970 in Monterey, shows that the Moon was in the sign of Libra on that day. The signs Aries and Libra are 180 degrees from each other in the zodiac circle. That makes them two, apparently opposing, faces of the same axis.

Aries is, in part, the face of "I am," individuality and assertiveness; Libra the face of "we are," harmony and justice. When I work for justice, or assert myself harmoniously, when we work for justice, even for the individual without a voice, then the pair functions as a team. The opposition is healed and both "ends" of the spectrum are strengthened.

While astrological indicators can't compel any kind of response, they do allow a glimpse into patterns of behavior. It's like getting a look at the list of ingredients in a recipe. A cake made with flour, lemon juice, eggs, sugar, water, leavening, and vanilla will taste different from one made with chocolate instead of lemon. While reading the recipe, a preference for lemon or chocolate is irrelevant. What's important is to understand that the original author of the cookbook is utterly trustworthy, and to taste and describe the variety of food whose ingredients are present on the page.

Which is part of "what's wrong with" reading a horoscope blurb in (ahem) the paper or in a magazine which says, in effect, "Here's your date: you're lemon; here's another date; you're chocolate. Do this. Don't do that." No context (cake? pork fried rice? quick lunch? anniversary party?), no footnotes, bibliography, or credit to the original author.

Next month, it'll be a year since I started writing this particular cycle of columns about the Sun signs. With the next issue of the *News,* I'll reach for, and bring you, the Moon, which I've always wanted to grab and bring home. Thanks for the opportunity.

— MaryKate Jordan

Hear ye, hear ye!

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The Flower of Survival

Taraxacum Officinale: Dandelions

When I was in kindergarten, I had trouble making friends. So most of the time I spent alone in my imagination singing and drawing. (No worries, I have lovely friends now!)

One of my fondest memories is spending all of recess and lunch in the springtime in the fields making dandelion crowns and chains to adorn myself. I was lost in the vivid gold flowers and warm sun. All too many times I was late back to school, out of breath and exhilarated. Dandelions, also known as lion's tooth, bitterwort, and piss-in-bed, continue to nurture me on so many levels. I wish more people knew how comforting and healing this so-called annoying weed is.

In 1990, over thirty million pounds of insecticides and pesticides were applied to residential gardens and lawns in the United States. This money could be used instead for child-care facilities, health care, organic farming pilot programs, domestic violence programs, etc. People would be stronger and healthier if they ate the greens and drank the root tea instead of jeopardizing their life's health, and the soil, water, animals and insects.

The parts of the plant that can be used are the roots, leaves, and flowers. The root can be used fresh or dried and dug in the spring or fall. It is considered a stronger medicine for the liver in the late winter/spring because this is when liver and gall bladder energy is the strongest in the body according to Chinese medicine. The root is an extremely good ally for women sffering from any menstrual difficulties. It helps the liver decongest and keeps it from becoming overburdened by excess amounts of hormones. The root tea or tincture is helpful for women going through menopause to take on a regular basis

to help regulate hormonal changes. It is also safe and protective for the liver for women who are taking estrogen replacement or other hormonal drugs.

Dandelion leaves are great in salads, steamed, cooked in soups, or sautéed if one has trouble with the strong, bitter flavor. The flower can also be eaten fresh or made into tempura. Go for a lovely quiet walk to a luring field ablaze with yellow and pick some flowers, bring them home and invite your friends and family to eat this lovely tempura with rice, salad, grated daikon radish to help digest the oil, and ginger pickles. Take one cup of whole wheat pastry flour (or a mix of brown rice and barley), and mix with one tsp. arrowroot. Add one tsp. of your vinegar of choice, one cup of water or beer, a pinch of salt, kelp or tamari soy sauce, and some freshly chopped garlic. Gently stir the dry and wet ingredients until the mixture is like pancake batter. Heat up safflower oil and deep fry until golden brown. The trick with tempura is heating the oil untill the batter drops to the bottom of the pan and then quickly rises, about 350° with a thermometer. Drain excess oil on inside of old paper bags, or towels.

Tempura is a great food on occasion; it goes deep within the body and gives us strength, heat, and deep satisfaction. It helps with nut butter binges and ultimately, if eaten in moderate amounts, helps us eat less oil.

Dandelions have been respected as a healer for thousands of years. Their use is said to originate in Greece and Central Asia. Found in many recipes in the Middle Ages, they have been used in folklore traditions all over the world.

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There is a legend about how dandelions first appeared. Long before humans overpopulated the Earth, when fairies, elves, and gnomes were everywhere, some of the sun-loving fairies wore brightly colored yellow gowns. The elves and gnomes hid behind rocks and in the water, but the yellow fairies got trampled on so they transformed into dandelions. If you have ever tried to weed dandeliions you know it is almost futile; they have an almost supernatural power to survive. Their seeds are easily airborne, and they soon reappear.

The seed head is commonly used by children (and us bigger children) to find out what your lover is thinking of you; "he loves me" with one puff of the seed head, "he loves me not" with the next. It is said that if you whisper words of love to your favorite person, the seeds will carry the words to your beloved.

The flower essence is for those who are enthusiastic about life but try to cram too much in. This essence helps to relax and open up a person to feel repressed emotions and release the tension to create a peaceful opening.

I still make dandelion crowns each spring and feel excited to see the cheerful radiant fields. I gain a renewed inner strength from this powerful plant each year. Enjoy the spring! To quote Natalie Goldberg, *Every moment is enormous, and it's all we have.*

— Christine Morrow

Have Needle; Will (Time) Travel

Fannie Stowell Moody's Crewelwork

The crewel piece shown here was designed and stitched by Fannie Stowell when she was about thirteen years old, probably in 1895. Created in Michigan, it arrived in Monterey just a few years ago, with Janet Lampman, the creator's granddaughter. Janet first saw this heirloom stitchery when Susan and Dwight Miller gave it to her for Christmas. Susan, one of Janet's sisters, had been given the stitchery by their father.

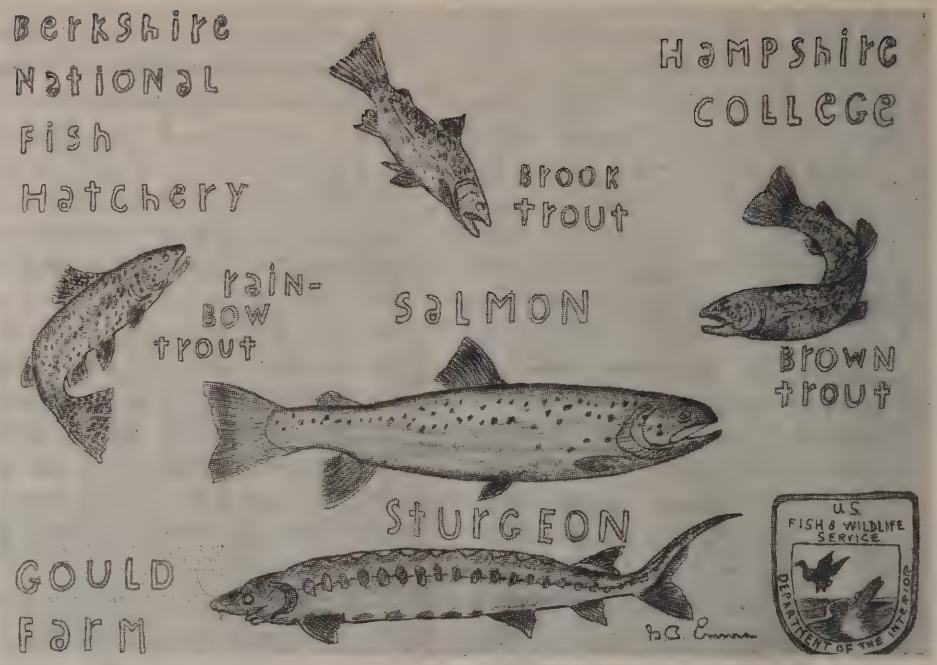
While Fannie Stowell Moody's stitchery projects ranged "from purse sized to large," this piece measures 26 inches by 19 inches. Fannie stitched the image, an adaptation of an eighteenth-century Tree of Life pattern, with a dozen different colors of fine wool yarn. She used three shades of indigo, two varieties of red, goldenrod, pink, dark brown, beige as well as olive, forest, and seafoam green, all on a cream-colored background fabric, probably also wool. A double line of chain stitch in dark and medium indigo, borders the flowering tree and the birds it shelters.

Fannie Stowell, the properly brought-up Victorian girl whom Janet knew as a proper Victorian matriarch, was schooled in a variety of handwork skills. As an adult, she continued to expand her repertoire and to use her hands to create beauty. In addition to stitchery, she painted on china. Janet remembers a luncheon set with a pattern of violets, which Fannie created in 1903. After her husband, Paul Moody, took up woodcarving as a hobby, Fannie also took woodworking lessons. Like her crewelwork, her woodcarvings ranged widely in size. She carved floral purse handles, and also a floral mantelpiece.

Janet also recalls a delicate white and rose-colored party dress she wore during her childhood. The dress, handmade and embroidered all along the hem by this same grandmother, was so special that it was handed down through the family as Janet and each of her sisters grew into it. What a gift it must be for Janet, to remember being clothed in a family legacy of beauty.

— MaryKate Jordan

Friends of the Berkshire Fish Hatchery



The Berkshire National Fish Hatchery will be open to the public by the end of April. But the mission of the opening announcement is intended to be much more than just an invitation to casual visits. The plan is to connect the Hatchery presence here with the common interests of Monterey, New Marlboro, and other Berkshire communities by promoting mutual support activities with local groups and organizations that share environmental concerns. Longer term, there is a blueprint for seeking support from water-related manufacturers and from government grants to expand and implement the Hatchery's full potential.

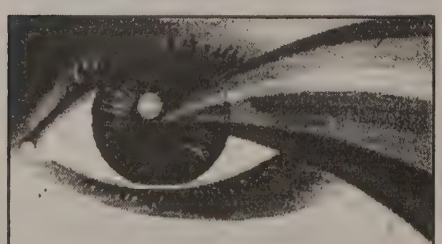
The Hatchery has been inactive since 1994, in caretaker status of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Department of the Interior). The buildings and some of the facilities were seriously vandalized during the past winter, but now there is a high profile of positive things happening. To begin, there is a impressive new sign at the entrance, very noticeable on River Road if coming from Monterey, which is also Hatchery Road if coming from Hartsville (New Marlborough). The property of some 150 acres is almost equally divided between the two towns.

How did this complete turnaround come about? Hampshire College has signed a five-year lease to operate the facility. The college is one of five educational institutions in the Amherst area (Smith, Mt Holyoke, Amherst, University of Massachusetts, and Hampshire) that share curricula for self-motivated students. The Hatchery will be used to further research and development of aquaculture, the cultivation of sea, lake, and river foodstuffs, such as fish, oysters, and seaweed.

This change in direction of a facility headed downhill is spearheaded by Ken Bergstrom, professor at Hampshire College, and formerly the Executive Director of the Western Massachusetts Center for Sustainable Aquaculture. The germ of this idea fell on fertile soil at neighboring Gould Farm. Director Brian Snyder recognized the potential to expand Farm participation into the related field of aquafarming. Such a course of cooperation was right down his alley, and the project just over the hill, so the Farm has taken up occupancy in the Hatchery residence, to take up aquafarming.

The forests behind the Hatchery have several miles of potentially useful and educational nature trails, which need to be restored. But the most valuable natural resource is a very high quality of spring water. Some 150 gallons a minute come gushing out of artesian wells. According to Ken Gunsinger of Hartsville, President of The Isaac Walton League, which operated the Hatchery in the 1970s, almost 90 percent of the eggs supplied by the government hatched out, a high rate of success, to the credit of proper supervision and great water.

Now that the progression of ice-out has liberated the surfaces of our



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lakes, ponds, and rivers, a spirit of renewal has transformed the circular cement pools of the Hatchery with the reintroduction of living species. Facing revolving currents that simulate natural stream conditions are 1000 brook trout, 1000 rainbow trout, and 1000 brown trout. Also 20 brood salmon of Connecticut River fame that can trace their ancestry to the Hatchery. They are, descendents of the class put into the River in 1990, which went to sea and then found their way back to procreate their kind, proving that salmon raised at the Hatchery had not lost any of the true anadromous instincts of their wild heritage. Something in the water!

Hampshire College has also applied for a permit from the Office of Protected Resources at the National Marine Fisheries Service, and expects to get permission to participate in studies for the recovery program for the shortnose sturgeon. The shortnose sturgeon, also indigenous to the Connecticut River, is considered a "relic species," as its fossils date back some 65 million years. Individual sturgeon have been found to be more than 60 years old. They are protected by the federal government and the governments of all states where they exist. Research on their behavior and environmental requirements may provide valuable information for the development of management strategies. Wouldn't it be great if the sturgeon project got a boost up the academic fish ladder here, put in that context because the species is also somewhat anadromous.

Ken Bergstrom also has a vision for a youth program, making good use of the lower pond adjacent to Hatchery Road. There, young people in a 4-H approach could manage their own individual pens and learn about aquaculture. The Isaac Walton League itself has vast and valuable experience in organizing youth programs, most recently the very well attended ice-fishing derby on Otis Reservoir. Monterey's member on the national board of directors, Leroy Thorpe, sees potential of national importance for the Hatchery to study methods of raising largemouth bass. Not much is known, but there is a groundswell of interest all over this country.

Sir Izaac Walton wrote *The Compleat Angler, or the Contemplative Man's Recreation* in England in 1653. He brought some exact science to the attention of his readers, and the work still stands as a literary milestone of its time. Now, on a secluded hillside corner of the Berkshires, new chapters of aquatic knowledge may surface. Most of us feel some stewardship responsibilities for our aquatic heritage that go beyond Walton's wildest dreams. From the wet labs and aquatic greenhouses of Hampshire College, there is a local opportunity for you to participate in the learning process. Just drop a note to Friends of Berkshire Fish Hatchery, P.O. Box 84, Monterey, MA 01245

— George Emmons

◆

Concert at Meeting House

On May 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Monterey Meeting House, there will be an exciting musical event, Gypsy Moon Celebration.

The idea is to provide an occasion for all those who wish to be heard to perform. This will also be an opportunity for all of us to get to know our community's musicians, including drummers, singers, cellists, and more. The evening will be devoted to inspiration. Anyone who wishes to participate should give me a call at 528-0638.

Refreshments will be donated by Iggie's Bread of the World in Boston and by Bizen, which will make a cake.

If you have a deep desire to perform or would like to help with flyers, programs, advertising, paper goods, or flower vases, don't hesitate to come and join the fun.

Monterey is a wonderful town. It is great to be home again. Thank you.

— Christine Morrow

◆

News from the 70s

Easter Egg Hunt in the Snow

Ordinarily snow does not present an attractive cover for an Easter egg hunt. This year the snow on Easter Day proved no hindrance for the 30 children who gathered in the afternoon for the event sponsored by the Park Commission. The snow helped show up the bright colors and the eggs were found in record time.

— *Monterey News,* April 1972

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Personal Notes

Birthday greetings to **Wendy Tryon** on April 2, **Eric Pedersen** and **Karl Quisenberry** on the 4th, **Tina Jenssen** on the 5th, **Bonnie Cox** on the 8th, **Scott Jenssen** on the 9th, **Andrew Doherty** on the 16th, **Maurice Stiefel**—his 70th—on the 17th, **Don Coburn** and **Lily Chapman** on the 18th, **Cody Funk** on the 24th, and **Grace Burke** on the 28th.

Happy Anniversary to **Bill** and **Kay Mielke** on April 17.

Congratulations to **Mike** and **Kerry Mielke** on the birth of their daughter, **Hadley Taylor,** March 20. **Mike, Sr.,** is one proud Grampa. Welcome to the family Hadley!

Annabel Edelman, a fifth grader at Morris Elementary in Lenox, was a participant in Odyssey of the Mind a program using technology for creative problem solving. Her team, Eggsploration, had to design an obstacle course to transport five eggs from one point to another without handling them. The tournament took place at Western New England College on March 11; Eggsploration placed third.

Beginning with this issue, for the next year, in honor of the thirtieth anniversary of the *Monterey News,* we'll be looking back at Personal Notes from ten, twenty, and thirty years ago.

1970: Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bynack on the birth of their daughter, Nancy Lynn.

1980: Monterey residents should be on the lookout for an intrepid raccoon. He strikes during big snows. Bob Ensign of Brookbend apartments was running his snowblower after the snowstorm in March. He felt something brushing on his legs. Before he knew it he was being attacked—bitten on the leg. He started a course of rabies shots. There is a happy ending. Mr. Coon turned out not to be rabid—just distempered. The moral of this story is if a raccoon comes up to you immediately check out his temper.

1990: The *Monterey News* is beginning a search for a new editor now that David McAllester is nearing the end of his agreed-upon term.

Share your celebrations. Drop me a note at POB 211 or call 528-1871.

— Deborah Mielke

Contributors

Most of the expenses for the *Monterey News* are paid by donations from our readers. We gratefully acknowledge the following people who have recently contributed:

Larry & Shaun Bates
Dorothea Potz
Alice Somers
Larry & Katherine Walker
Nancy Torrico
Folger Thomas
Gerard & Ann-Catlin Lavallee

Short Census Forms Available at Town Hall

Copies of the short version of the U.S. 2000 census form are available at the Town Hall for citizens who do not want to fill out the long form. For more information, call Bonnie Jurgenson at the Town Hall, 528-1443.

Cal Ripken Baseball

Players age 9-12 who wish to play Cal Ripken Baseball may sign up by calling Jim Edelman in Monterey at 528-0006. In New Marlborough call John Scapin at 229-3665. Sandisfield and Otis call Gary Gonska 258-4772. Players will be accepted through April.

No Little League Baseball

Due to the failure to get enough sign-ups, there will be no Kiwanis-sponsored Little League baseball in Monterey this year.

Annecharico Farm
Firewood Sale
$90 per cord
cut, split & delivered
within Monterey and Sandisfield
$10 for Stacking

Join us at the barns for a
ribbon-cutting ceremony
at Gould Farm,
Saturday, April 15th, 4:30pm
to celebrate the completion of our
Dairy Processing & Cheese Barn Addition

"We mammals all start on milk;
it is a ubiquitous
symbol of wholeness."
- *Wayne Burkhart, farmer*

Calendar

Saturday, April 1, Business lunch for *Monterey News* staff, high noon through April 31, Peppermint Lounge Twist & Shout, Miami Beach.

Wednesday, April 12, Grey Citizens' Council luncheon and sharing of information, noon, Town Hall Basement. See p. 2 for details. RSVP to Bonnie at Town Hall, 528-1443.

Friday, April 14, Gould Farm's second annual Gala Dinner Dance, evening, Gedney Farm. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Proceeds will support the Farm's programs. For information, call Rita Kasky, 528-1804, x13.

Saturday, April 15, Gould Farm will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4:30 p.m. at the barns in celebration of the completion of its Dairy Processing and Cheese Barn Addition. Public invited. Call Wayne at 528-2144 for more information.

Monday, April 17, Patriots' Day. Town Hall closed. (*Monterey News* staff will give twist demonstration as they run Boston Marathon.)

Tuesday, April 18, Free blood pressure clinic, 9:00–10:30 a.m., basement of Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Saturday, April 22, Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Peter Stix. All dances are taught, and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $5, children $2. Information 413-528-9385. (Bonner and Joe will teach the twist.)

Friday, April 28, Informational Town Meeting in preparation for Annual Town Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Firehouse. See p. 2 for details.

Saturday, May 6, Annual Town Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Firehouse.

Antique Appraisal Day

We all have a mysterious object we wonder about. When and where was it made and is it valuable. The Granville Historical Society, Inc. will sponsor an antique and fine art appraisal day on Saturday, May 6th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Old Meeting House, Main Road, Granville Centre, MA.

Skinner, auctioneers and appraisers of Boston and Bolton, MA, will conduct the appraisals. Items from virtually all collecting areas will be covered: porcelain, pottery, toys, dolls, silver, paintings, furniture, rugs, etc. However, no coins, stamps or jewelry please. And if an item is fragile or very large, please bring photos.

A $5 tax-deductible contribution to the Historical Society will be asked for each item to be appraised. There will be a limit of 2 items per person. Any questions? Please call 357-8801.

Lake Garfield Association Eco Tip for November

Prime your septic
with plenty of yeast,
So that bacteria can feast,
at the very least.

Lost and Found

Found: College ring at Monterey Town Beach. Call 413/528-2265.

The Observer

February 26—March 25

High temp. (3/10)	73°
Low temp. (3/18)	9°
Avg. high temp.	48.2°
Avg. low temp.	26.7°
Avg. temp.	37.5°
High wind gust (3/10)	29 mph.
Snowfall	2"
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	3.83"

Precipitation occurred on 11 days.
Barometric pres. data not available.

Summer Hours at Transfer Station

The summer hours for the Monterey Transfer Station will commence on Sunday, April 2, 2000, as follows:

SUNDAY: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (unchanged)
SATURDAY: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (unchanged)

Applications for authorized users' vehicles may be obtained at the Town Hall at any time; completed applications, together with the fee, may be mailed or left at the Town Hall. The sticker will be mailed to the applicant.

— Monterey Select Board

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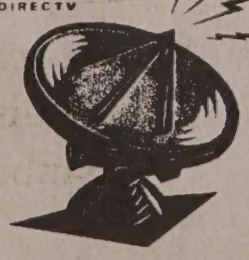
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Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 20; Bonner McAllester, p. 16; Glynis Oliver, pp. 13, 18, 23.

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